(c) There were 7276 employees in IDPL as on 31.3.1998.

Automobile production

1291. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of passenger cars, trucks, three-wheelers, scooters etc. from 1995-96 to 1997-98; separately; year-wise; and

(b) the rate of increase in prices for each during this period?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Total production of various automotive vehicles during last 3 years were as under:—

(In Nos.)

	Production		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Commercial Vehicles	217437	240551	160998
Car	348240	411145	407453
Multi Utility Vehicles	106251	134583	134613
Two Wheelers	2656017	2979227	3072667
Three Wheelers	176413	221619	234867

(b) the rate of increase in prices of vehicles is not maintained as there is no administrative control or price regulation.

Closure of cement factories

1292. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many cement factories have been either closed or have stopped production in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that 17 out of 30 Mini cement units in Andhra Pradesh have been closed; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to help the cement industry from closure?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Fifteen large cement plants are reported closed or have stopped production due to various reasons such as technological obsolescence and economic non-viability. Out of fifteen cement plants, three are in Madhya Pradesh, two each in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka and Gujarat and one each in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(b) The data relating to Mini cement plants is not maintained centrally.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units including those reported on the verge of closure. These, inter-alia, include guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units and setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Funds etc.

Centrally-sponsored growth centre schemes

1293. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise Centrally-sponsored growth centres functioning or proposed to be set up;

(b) the criteria adopted to set up growth centres in various States; and

(c) the Central assistance released for the growth centres, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) Under the Growth Centre Scheme, 1988, 71 growth centres are proposed to be developed through out the country. Each of the approved growth centre is eligible for Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores (Rs. 15 crore for growth centres in NE States) for development of infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunications, banking etc., enabling them to

attract industries. The allotment of growth centres to various States was made by the Planning Commission on the basis of a combined criteria of area, population in relation to industrial potential and employment and extent of industrial backwardness in the State. A list of these 71 growth centres and their status alongwith Central assistance released indicated against each of them is at Annexure. (*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 22)

Awareness about Patents and TRIPS

1294. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government feel the necessity of creating awareness in the people about Patents and TRIPS in view of their importance in coming years;

(b) if so, whether they have any proposal to do so;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) In order to create awareness about intellectual property rights, including patents and TRIPs, Government has been organising awareness programmes, seminars, etc. Further, in the project relating to modernisation of Patent Office, funds have been earmarked for taking up awareness activities in the coming years.

Operation of MNCs

1295. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reviewing operations of direct marketing by multinational companies; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to control their operations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Review of operations and policies is constantly under taken by Government as an input for further policy formulation.

Proposals cleared by FIPB

1296. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals considered and cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board, so far, during the current year with estimated cost and industry with State-wise break up;

(b) how does it compare with that of the corresponding period during the last two years;

(c) the details of proposals pending/ under consideration; and

(d) what is the most favoured state and destination during recent year for foreign investment with number of proposals and quantum of investment proposed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) Sir, 1349 foreign technical and financial proposals involving foreign direct investment (FDI) to the tune of Rs. 22625.90 crore have so far been cleared by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) from April, 98 to December, 98. Statement giving Industry-wise and State-wise details of foreign direct investment enclosed as Annexure (*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No.—23)

During the corresponding periods of 1996 and 1997, 1717 and 1720 foreign technical and financial proposals involving foreign direct investment (FDI) to the tune of Rs. 27721.03 crore and Rs. 34804.41 crore were approved respectively.

As on date, 59 proposals are pending/ under consideration.

Receipt of disposal of applications filed for consideration by FIPB/Government is